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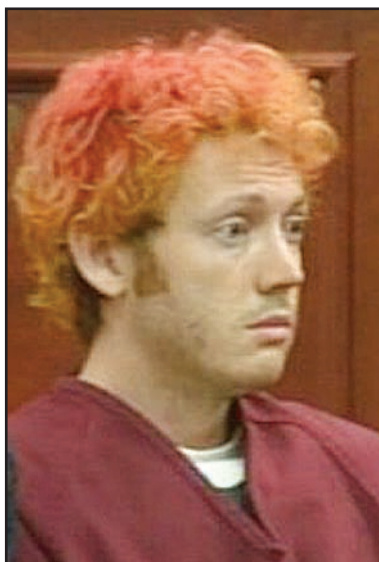
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Colorado shooting suspect makes first court appearance



CENTENNIAL (AFP) - Suspected Colorado gunman James Holmes made his first appearance in court yesterday, orange-haired and seemingly bewildered, to face charges after one of America's worst-ever mass shootings.

The 24-year-old Holmes stared blankly as lawyers discussed procedural arrange-

ments with the Arapahoe County judge. He was later led out after the hearing, which lasted less than 10 minutes.

He is accused of shooting dead 12 people and wounding 58 others at a cinema Friday in Aurora, outside Denver, as young moviegoers packed the midnight screening of the latest Batman film, "The Dark Knight Rises."

Holmes is scheduled to appear in court again next Monday to face arraignment and be formally charged over the massacre, and was ordered to remain in custody with no bail allowed.

A number of family members of victims were in the court in Centennial, and stared at Holmes throughout the brief appearance. He did not return their gazes, according to CNN.

It was impossible to determine if Holmes' behavior was the result of stress, drug-induced or perhaps an act.

Continued on page 6

The Hilberaths have made Aruba their favorite destination for 40 years!

The Aruba Tourism Authority had the very great pleasure of celebrating with Rudolf and Irma Hilberath of Dusseldorf Germany their 68th visit to Aruba in 40 consecutive years! They came to the island for the first time in 1972; since then have returned annually, often more than once.

When the Hilberaths first vacationed on Aruba they used to stay with Irma's uncle at Balashi, and were immediately won over by the lovely color they acquired, the charm of the island and hospitable nature of the people. Soon, they discovered the cute little Basiruti Resort in Palm Beach, which was eventually replaced by the Playa Linda Beach Resort in 1985. However, those special days in Palm Beach began their four-decade long love affair with the Island. Some of their favorite pastimes while on vacation has been swimming and fishing, along with traveling around the island to visit the many friends they have made over the years.

The Hilberaths have been first hand witnesses to Aruba's recent history, observing the construction of many of our high and low rise hotels and the breaking of ground for Aruba's first time share resort. Since they were certain they wished to visit the island regularly, the concept perfectly suited their needs, and they bought at the Costa Linda Beach Resort, which is now their home away from home.

Just last week, the 16th of July, Irma celebrated her 90th



birthday at the Costa Linda with friends and staff members they met during the years. The staff and personnel from the Costa Linda are very proud to have the Hilberaths as part of their community and they love them very much.

The Aruba Tourism Authority here by would like to thank Mr. Rudolf and Mrs. Irma Hilberath for their 40th consecutive year vacation on Aruba and wishes the

couple many more years of good health, so they can grace the island with their presence when spending time at "their home away from home."

Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority presented the couple with memorable gifts on behalf of the government and the ATA, and Mrs. Gloria Janga and Mrs. Miriam Rodriguez from the Costa Linda presented the couple with champagne and other mementos.

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CaribVet Epidemiologists visit Aruba's Minister of Public Health



Upon the invitation of the government of Aruba, two Epidemiologists from CaribVet visited Aruba's Veterinary Services Department. CaribVet is a relatively new network which works together with Veterinary Services in the Caribbean region, laboratories, investigative institutions and other institutions in the region and internationally, such as the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the International Office des Epizooties (OIE), to improve the health of animals and the veterinary public health.

Their work covers the following areas:

- Improve regional strategies for the health of an-



imals in the Caribbean so making the product more competitive

- Improve and standardize the control of animal diseases, including "early

warning signs"

- Improve the knowledge about animal diseases and their epidemiology in the Caribbean
- Improve the technical capacity in member countries
- Develop and support necessary practices of vigilance and control of diseases among animals in the region

From July 18 to the 20th, Dr. Celine Faverjon and Dr. Simonme Titus implemented a Surveillance Network Assessment Tool (SNAT) in

Aruba. Through this means they obtained an impression of the capacity of Aruba on areas of vigilance and the control of animal diseases. Within that context they visited both the Veterinary Services and the Veterinary Laboratories, also the abattoir, the wharf, the airport and the customs office.

SNAT is a recognized method used to compare countries and also to identify areas of weakness and strengths in the area of epidemiology, the control of animal diseases and public veterinary health.

At the end of their work they paid a courtesy visit to the Aruba Minister of Public Health.

Dutch professor to provide Aruba special 'green' auto!



During his three-month stay on Aruba, Professor Wubbo Ockels promises to provide Aruba with a special 'green' automobile. This, reportedly, is one of the goals of the professor of sustainable energy for Aruba. During a radio talk show in the Netherlands, where the professor was invited to share information about his recently signed agreement with Aruba's Prime Minister, he divulged his plans and goal for his visit to Aruba.

Ockels is expected to sail from Holland on his own yacht "Ecolution" in the month of November en route to Aruba. His yacht will dock here in the Oranjestad Harbor practically in front of Aruba's City Hall. In the three months while here, Ockels will assist in the realization of the government's ambition for a sustainable Aruba.

The former Dutch astronaut indicated that meetings concerning sustainability can be held aboard his yacht Ecolution. According to Ockels, Aruba is an example for the whole world, and in particular for his own Holland. The circumstances on Aruba are ideal for becoming completely independent from fossil fuels. There is sufficient wind, sun

and cold sea water. But, says Ockels, the process is yet to begin. In his view, in order to achieve the goal, we need leadership. By leadership, he does not mean the exchange of opinions, but a clear vision for the future, which he believes the Prime Minister of Aruba has.

In the Dutch radio interview, Ockels explained that his intention is to work on the receptivity of the Aruban people. Ockels indicated that... "a sustainable Aruba will not only help make the island cleaner, but at the same time must also be something pleasant. The people of Aruba are now faced with the high cost of electricity and Aruba is being contaminated at the same time. We can offer an alternative that would be cheaper and cleaner. This will also be good for the tourism of Aruba. A sustainable island will draw even more tourists. Aruba will become a happy energy island."

Says Ockels, an "eco-Aruba-mobile," a 100% sustainable automobile would be perfect in this sustainable process. The Aruban character must be represented in this.

The entire interview can be heard on www.vroegevogels.vara.nl.

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Farmers soon to have well-functioning fresh water wells

The new Director of the Aruba Monument Fund, Anne Witsenburg recently received a special invitation from Santa Rosa to, together with Nathalie Maduro of the Management Team of Santa Rosa, visit the different wells chosen for renovation and to be put back into service for the use of our farmers. The government has recently agreed to have Santa Rosa reclaim the water windmills at Sabana Liber and Pos Grandi and place these under their management.

The first well visited was the Pavia well, which will be the very first well to be saved from deterioration. Witsenburg was impressed with the large amount of water that this well contains and its relatively good condition.

The next well was in Sabana Liber. This well need considerable repair work and is currently out of service because of the lack of an apparatus that Santa Rosa has ordered from Curacao in the meantime.

The other wells visited were in Salina Cerca in the vicinity of a land parceling



project, but which definitely would be useful to farmers in the Noord area and vicinity. They also visited the wells in Babijn, Ayo, Calabas, Matavidiri, Tamarijn, and in Butucu. Santa Rosa is also investigating other wells that are also in fair conditions which can also be repaired rather quickly.

All of the wells they visited were full with water. However, there were some that were covered with cement or other

structures probably for safety reasons. The Bucutu well was completely dry. They discovered a well of an old structure with a windmill at the entrance of Sero Preto which could certainly be very useful. Next week Santa Rosa plans to inspect this well more thoroughly and inspect the quality of the water. Depending on its condition, this well too will be put on the list of wells to be renovated.

Continued from page 5

Santa Rosa holds interesting lecture on Wednesday

SANTA CRUZ -- In recent months the interest in starting an agricultural project, or live-stock, fishery, or hydroponic production has grown considerably. This interest is very notable when one observes how big the Santa Rosa market has grown since the beginning of 2011.

One of the important roles that Santa Rosa plays is to provide important information to help agriculturists get optimal and maximum benefit from their produce. In this context Santa Rosa has teamed up with the Aruba Investment Bank to organize an informative lecture on how to develop a business in the primary sector and how to make that business as profitable as possible.

The lecture is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, July 25th in the Club San Martin in Santa Cruz from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Nathalie Maduro of the Management Team of Santa Rosa will begin the evening with information concerning the official registration taking place and the purpose for this. After this, Aruba Investment



Bank's Analyst, Gaby Croes, will present the informative lecture on how to develop your business. Representatives of IDEA will also be present to provide information regarding a course which will soon be offered by Enseñanza pa Empleo.

Santa Rosa is taking this opportunity to invite all local producers to participate in this interesting and informative lecture and learn how they can develop their business and continue to contribute profitably to Aruba's primary sector.

The lecture will be completely free of charge. For questions, please contact Glenda Bareño or Randy Maduro at Santa Rosa, tel. 585-8102

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Winners of the 'Perde pa Gana 5' Subway program receive presents from Dufry



Recently Dufry invited the grand winner and the winning team of the Subway program 'Perde pa Gana 5' to their store in the mainstreet. Glenn Kelly, the absolute winner received a beautiful basket and all the members of the winning yellow team of Niurca de Cuba also received a present from Dufry representative, Alison Briesen. Mrs. Briesen presented the

gifts, adding: "It is not only important to feel good, but also to look good."

The 'Perde pa Gana 5' program (Lose to Gain program 5) promotes a healthy lifestyle, encouraging healthy eating and exercise.

During the 12-week program participants followed a pretty rigorous nutritional and exercise plan. Aruba could follow their progress

weekly via television. In total the participants lost a whopping 400 kilos!

The Dufry team gives their support to this program because they understand and acknowledge the importance of taking care of one's image.

Dufry is known to carry renowned brands of perfume and fragrances



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Malcolm and Jean Foster honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a very friendly couple at the Aruba Marriott Vacation Club, as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees are Mr. Malcolm and Mrs. Jean Foster from South Borough MA USA. The couple has been visiting Aruba for 10 consecutive years and are very loyal members of the Marriott Vacation Club. A certificate was presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Gail Sahit and Mrs. Altagracia Lampe representing the Marriott Vacation Club.

Three lovely ladies honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored three very loyal Aruba visitors, at the Aruba Beach Club, as Ambassadors of Good Will. The honorees are Mrs. Brenda Watts - Larkins, Mrs. Lois Santiago and Mrs. Edna Gomez. The certificates were presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Susan Gibson representing the Aruba Beach Club

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Bon Bini Festival is tonight



The weekly Bon Bini Festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminastraat. Bon Bini Festival is the only weekly folkloric event on the island. Come mingle with the locals and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This week the festival will feature music by the traditional Aruba caha di orgel, folkloric music, dance performance and brass band.

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and traditional local arts and crafts on sale.

Arubus has regular busses from all hotels areas to Oranjestad Central Terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is \$2.30. The festival is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entrance fee is \$5.

Come and experience a taste of our 'dushi' Aruba



Farmers soon to have...

Continued from page 3

With respect to the Salina Cerca well, Santa Rosa intends to petition the DIP to conserve the land where this post is situated because it would serve our Noord farmers very well.

In view of the scarcity of rain water on the island, especially for our farmers, Santa Rosa and the government are confident that these various wells will afford our farmers a lot of flexibility in obtain-

ing fresh water to help with the production of their crops during the entire year instead of only during the rainy season.

On the other hand, the Aruba Monuments director, Witsenburg saw the benefits of renovating these wells and indicated that she would explore the possibility for helping Santa Rosa with the funds for the renovation of the wells around the island.

Obama warns Assad over chemical weapons

RENO (AFP) - US President Barack Obama yesterday warned Syrian strongman Bashar al-Assad not to make the "tragic mistake" of deciding to unleash his stockpile of chemical weapons.

Assad's beleaguered regime had earlier threatened to use such weapons if Syria faced international military intervention, although it vowed not to turn them against its own civilians.

"Given the regime's stockpile of chemical weapons, we

will continue to make it clear to Assad and those around him that the world is watching," Obama told an audience of US veterans in the western state of Nevada.

"They will be held accountable by the international community and the United States should they make the tragic mistake of using those weapons," he said.

Israel has also stepped up the rhetoric against Syria, warning it could take military action if any of its advanced

weapons end up in the hands of Hezbollah.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the issue of Syria's chemical weapons was among topics discussed earlier in July during US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's trip to Israel.

"Like all countries in the neighborhood, it makes sense for there to be prudent planning for self-defense," she said when asked about Israel's threat of military action.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

111 killed in Iraq's deadliest day in two years

BAGHDAD (AFP) - A wave of attacks across Iraq yesterday killed 111 people in the country's deadliest day in two and a half years after Al-Qaeda warned it would mount new attacks and sought to retake territory.

Officials said at least 235 people were wounded in 28 different attacks launched in 19 cities, shattering a relative calm which had held in the lead-up to the start on Saturday of the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

The violence drew condemnation from the United Nations special envoy to Iraq, the country's parliament speaker, and neighbouring Iran.

In yesterday's deadliest attack -- a string of roadside bombs and a car bomb fol-

lowed by a suicide attack targeting emergency responders in the town of Taji -- at least 42 people were killed and 40 wounded, according to two medical officials.

In Baghdad, meanwhile, a car bomb outside a government office responsible for producing identity papers in the Shiite bastion of Sadr City killed at least 12 people and wounded 33 others, security and medical officials said.

Two explosions in the Baghdad neighbourhoods of Husseinayah and Yarmuk killed at least four people and wounded 27 others, while a car bomb in the town of Tarmiyah, just north of the capital, killed one and hurt nine, officials said.

Checkpoint shootings and bomb blasts in restive ethni-

cally-mixed Diyala province killed 14 people and left 47 others wounded, a security official said.

Insurgents also launched attacks on a military base near the town of Dhuluiyah, killing at least 15 soldiers and leaving two others wounded, according to security officials.

Two other attacks in the same province -- a checkpoint shooting and a car bomb near a Shiite mosque -- left three people dead and six wounded, officials said.

Nine bomb blasts, some of them minutes apart, meanwhile killed seven people and wounded 29 in Kirkuk city and the eponymous province's towns of Dibis and Tuz Khurmatu.

Three different attacks -- a car bomb, a roadside blast and a shooting -- in the main northern city of Mosul and the nearby town of Baaj left nine people dead and seven wounded, according to reports.

Huma Abedin gets extra police protection



Huma Abedin's week got a bit scarier on Sunday when federal officials ordered extra security to her house after a New Jersey man threatened her. She is Hillary Clinton's aide and Anthony Weiner's wife.

The New York Post is reporting a Muslim man from New Jersey threatened Abedin after Michelle Bachman accused her of having ties to the Muslim Brotherhood.

The man was questioned by the NYPD but charges haven't been filed.

The Muslim Brotherhood is calling the claims ridiculous.

Colorado shooting suspect...

Continued from page 1

Prosecutors said yesterday they would formally charge Holmes next week, but will consult with victims' families on whether to seek the death penalty, although experts note that only one person has been executed in Colorado since 1976, ABC and local media reported.

Arapahoe county district at-

torney Carol Chambers, speaking shortly after the 24-year-old's first appearance in court, said the charges could include first degree murder but would not normally include terrorism.

She said that the decision whether or not to seek the death penalty had to involve victims' families. The first charges will be filed in court next Monday, but amended charges could be laid at later dates.

Calls for another look at America's gun laws are mounting in the aftermath of the tragedy as it emerged that Holmes bought his four weapons legally, as well as thousands of rounds of ammunition on the Internet.

Over eight weeks he stocked up over the Internet on 6,300 rounds of ammunition: 3,000 for his .233 semi-automatic AR-15 rifle, another 3,000 for his two .22 Glocks, and 300 cartridges for his pump-action shotgun.

New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said Holmes had painted his hair reddish orange and claimed he was the Joker, Batman's sworn enemy.

Four dead as Spanish wildfire rages out of control



LA JONQUERA : A pony is pictured neared charred trees in Darnius near La Jonquera (Girona) yesterday, close to the Spanish-French border. Four people were killed as winds whipped up a wildfire that raged out of control in northeastern Spain, forcing thousands of people to take refuge indoors, officials said. The blaze broke out just afternoon near the town of La Jonquera, just across the border with France and has so far destroyed about 7,000 hectares (17,000 acres) of land. (AFP PHOTO)

Hong Kong battens down for typhoon

HONG KONG (AFP) - Hong Kong warned residents to stay indoors and halted public transport yesterday as Typhoon Vicente skirted the island, packing winds in excess of 140 kilometres (87 miles) an hour.

At least 34 people were injured in the extreme weather as authorities raised the typhoon warning to ten -- the most severe level -- for the first time in three years just after midnight.

Officials said the tropical storm was moving at 20 kilometres an hour toward the southern Chinese coast and would pass 100 kilometres

southwest of Hong Kong overnight.

Over 100 trees fell and pieces of buildings were seen crashing into downtown streets as commuters made their way home from work. Many were forced to walk through the wind and rain due to shortages of public transport.

Ferry, bus and train services were suspended or ran at reduced capacity, the port was closed and 15 passenger flights to the regional aviation hub were cancelled as the storm approached. More than 210 flights were delayed.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Report: World failing children in Syria

BEIRUT (AFP) - The world is failing the children of Syria who face a "shockingly grave" plight as the conflict rages on and their right to live in peace is threatened, a British watchdog said yesterday.

"Syria: A war on Childhood" by the London-based organisation War Child accuses both Syrian government forces and the opposition of failing to protect children during the deadly 16 months of conflict.

"Syrian parties to conflict are guilty of war crimes," says the report, noting that the situation of children in the unrest-hit country is "shockingly grave."

"The treatment of children has been undeniably callous. Children and young people have been summarily massacred; illegally detained; sexual abused; used in combat; abducted and tortured, denied schooling and access to humanitarian aid; and deliberately targeted in violent attacks."

In a foreword, chief executive Rob Williams said: "By the time we see the end of the conflict in Syria it will be clear that children have paid a heavy price for the right to live in peace, go to school, and feel safe in their homes and communities."

He charged that forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime "and the militias it sponsors have shot, detained, tortured and sexually abused

children throughout... since the uprising began."

And likewise "opposition forces also stand charged with including children in their ranks, and failing to properly protect children when engaging in hostilities in civilian areas," he said.

The report criticises the "lack of unity at the international level" and charges that the number of children killed in the conflict "increased significantly" since a UN-backed peace plan was approved for Syria.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says that more than 19,000 people have been killed since the violence erupted in mid-March 2011 when Syrians first took to the streets to protest against the regime. It is unclear how many of those are children but a total of more than 8,000 people have reportedly been killed since the plan brokered by peace envoy Kofi Annan technically went into effect in mid-April.

Human rights groups estimate that about 1,200 children have died in 15 months of conflict and UNICEF, the UN's children's fund, said in February that hundreds of children have been detained with reports of torture and sexual abuse.

"We are failing Syria's children. We must not continue to fail them in the future," said Williams.

Troops, rebels clash in Damascus neighbourhoods

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syrian regime troops and rebels clashed in several districts of Damascus and Aleppo, a watchdog said, adding that 52 people were killed in violence across the strife-torn country yesterday.

Clashes erupted in the Damascus district of Qadam and the outskirts of Kfar Sousa after troops raided areas of the capital including the flashpoint neighbourhood of Mazzeh, it said.

According to the watchdog, residents whose homes were raided and shopkeepers targeted in the operation were "physically abused" by the troops.

State news agency SANA said the army had "restored security" in the Razi area of



This image made from amateur video released by Shaam News Network shows shelling of Homs, Syria by government forces.

Mazzeh, "surrounding and killing several terrorists."

Residents reported hearing gunfire and explosions into the early hours of the morning in Mazzeh, while activists reported overnight shelling in several other districts of the city.

Troop reinforcements were also dispatched to parts of Damascus yesterday as clashes and explosions continued through the morning, activists and an AFP journalist said.

The Local Coordination Committees activist network also reported that military re-

inforcements were sent during the night to a number of neighbourhoods.

It said that in the southern neighbourhood of Midan troops backed by 15 military transport vehicles had taken up positions at the Zein al-Abdin mosque, while two nearby districts were encircled by soldiers.

Syrian rebels "liberated" several districts of the northern city of Aleppo late yesterday, a Free Syrian Army spokesman in the country's commercial hub said.

EU ready to evacuate nationals from Syria if necessary

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Union is ready to evacuate its nationals from Syria via Cyprus if necessary and is watching the situation closely, EU officials said yesterday.

"We are prepared for the worst," said Cypriot Home Affairs Minister Eleni Mavrou, whose country currently holds the EU helm.

Speaking at informal talks between EU home affairs ministers, she said the bloc was preparing a system to help move Europeans as well as citizens from third countries from Syria to their own countries.

"We have experience of the evacuation from Lebanon and more recently with Libya," said the EU's home affairs commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem. "We can do it again."

Ban: Use of chemical weapons in Syria would be reprehensible

BELGRADE (AFP) - UN chief Ban Ki-Moon said yesterday that the use of chemical weapons in Syria would be "reprehensible" after Damascus raised the possibility of using such arms if there was an attack from outside.

"It would be reprehensible if anybody in Syria is contemplating the use of such weapons of mass destruction like chemical weapons," Ban told reporters.

Earlier yesterday, Syria acknowledged it had chemical weapons and said it would use them in the event of an "exter-

nal aggression," though not against its own civilians.

"What is a concern is that they are not parties to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)," said Ban.

However, Ban stressed that "all the countries have an obligation not to use any weapons of mass destruction, whether they are parties or not to any convention or agreement".

The OPCW is responsible for implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention aimed at eliminating such weapons.

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Health & Living

A Frenchman's union of Islam and homosexuality



Ludovic Mohamed Zahed and partner Qiyam al-Din

PARIS (AFP) - A newlywed homosexual Frenchman is on a mission to prove that "being gay and Muslim is possible" after feeling forced for years to choose between his religion and sexuality.

It took Algerian-born Ludovic-Mohamed Zahed, 35, two decades to come to terms with himself, but now that he's at peace he's made it his goal to fight Islamophobia and homophobia.

His call comes at a time when France, home to Europe's largest Muslim community, is warming up to gay marriage.

New Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, who took over after the Socialist victory in June elections ousted their conservative predecessors, promised this month to offer marriage and adoption rights to same-sex couples "in the first quarter of 2013".

Zahed, a Ph.D. student in religious anthropology, married his fellow Muslim partner in South Africa, the continent's only country to recognise same-sex unions. Becoming a spokesman for the community was a long time in the making, a product of much soul-searching.

"I think homosexuality, whatever one says, is not a choice," he wrote in his memoir "Le Coran et la chair" or "The Koran and the Flesh", published in March.

"And you'd have to be crazy to choose to be homosexual when you come from my socio-cultural background."

Homosexuality is considered a criminal offence in most Arab states and is "strictly prohibited" by Islam, said Abdallah Zekri, a member of the French Council of the Muslim Faith which acts as an official interlocutor with the French state.

"No imam, unless self-proclaimed, can officiate a gay wedding," he told AFP.

But that did not stop Zahed from following up his 2011 South African nuptials with a symbolic religious "marriage" officiated by an imam in the Paris suburbs this year.

Although associations for the gay faithful - like David et Jonathan for Christians and Beit Haverim for Jews - have been around for decades in France, until recently there was no group for Muslim gays.

In 2010, Zahed founded Homosexual Muslims in France (HM2F), which counts 270 members.

"To be gay and Muslim is possible," the slender, bespectacled Zahed wrote in his book. "However the road is still long."

-- I told myself, 'you must choose' --

Born in Algeria and raised in a poor neighbourhood of the 17th district in Paris, Zahed displayed early effeminate tendencies, prompting regular beatings from a brother who hoped it would "teach me to be a man."

His father, who sensed Zahed was gay, repeatedly told him he'd prefer to "break my back and bury me alive rather than see me become like that," Zahed said.

Finding refuge in religion, Zahed paid regular visits to Salafists, Muslims who advocate a strict interpretation of Islamic law, when on holiday in Algeria.

But as an adult, his homosexuality bubbled up to the surface. With the sexuality strongly frowned upon by his community, Zahed experienced "great suffering".

"I told myself, 'you must choose' and I violently rejected Islam," he said. "A long spiritual void" followed amid years of unhappiness.

When he came out to his family, his father accepted it, but his mother cried every night for two months and he

fell out with his brother.

The turning point came when he was 30 years old: "I no longer looked to hate anyone for anything, but simply to change the discriminatory reactions facing me," he wrote in his book.

In 2011, Zekri, who is also an AIDS activist and has written about himself being HIV positive, met his future husband in South Africa, where they tied the knot in a civil wedding that year.

Gay culture has flourished there since the fall of apartheid - which harshly penalised homosexuality - in 1994, when South Africa enshrined equal rights in its constitution and allowed same-sex couples to marry and adopt.

Other African nations sentence homosexuals to prison, as in Morocco, where homosexuality is punishable by six months to three years in prison, though it's tolerated provided practitioners don't flaunt their difference.

When the pair wed again in a religious ceremony in the Paris suburbs in February, it was a symbolic step that won them threats and insults.

"Visibility is a sensitive issue," Zahed said.

Cancer-causing toxin found in Chinese baby formula



BEIJING (AFP) - A Chinese dairy has been ordered to suspend production after a cancer-causing toxin was found in its infant formula, China's quality watchdog said Monday, in the country's latest milk scare.

Ava Dairy Co. Ltd has started a recall after high levels of aflatoxin, which is caused by mould, was found in products made between July and December, the watchdog said, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

The affected formula was mainly sold to supermarkets in Hunan and Guangdong, said Li Yuanping, spokesman for



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Monday - Sunday

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WASHINGTON : Activists take part in the Keep the Promise Alive 2012 AIDS march and rally on the streets of Washington on July 22, 2012. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a leading US expert in the AIDS pandemic, said there is "no excuse" scientifically for not putting an end to the disease that has killed some 30 million people since it emerged in the 1980s. Speaking to reporters on the first day of the International AIDS Conference in the US capital, Fauci said science has the tools needed to combat HIV/AIDS

AFP/PHOTO

China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

China is trying to crack down on product safety violations to reassure citizens and restore faith in the government after a series of high-profile scandals.

The latest case comes just a month after dairy maker Yili began recalling batches of baby formula when authorities found they contained high levels of mercury.

And in December, aflatoxin was found in milk produced by another leading dairy company, Mengniu Dairy Group.

Milk was at the centre of China's biggest food safety scandal in 2008 when the industrial chemical melamine was found to have been illegally added to dairy products to give the appearance of higher protein content.

At least six babies died and another 300,000 became ill after drinking milk tainted with melamine.

Aflatoxins can be found in milk after cows consume feed contaminated by mould and can increase the risk of cancer, including liver cancer, according to the World Health Organisation.

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Sci-Tech

Moody's downgrades Nokia credit rating, outlook negative



(AFP) International ratings agency Moody's on Monday downgraded the long-term debt of Nokia by two notches, to "Ba3", cautioning the Finnish mobile phone giant would likely suffer even deeper than expected losses going forward.

"Nokia's transition in the smartphone business will cause deeper operating losses and consequently cash consumption in the coming quarters than we had previously assumed," the ratings agency said in a statement, adding that the outlook on all of Nokia's ratings remained negative.

Moody's had bumped Nokia to "junk" status in June, two months after the two other large ratings agencies, Standard and Poor's and Fitch, but the drop to Ba3 places the Finnish mobile phone maker four notches below investment grade.

Monday's downgrade came after Nokia last Thursday reported far worse-than-expected second quarter results, posting a net loss of 1.41 billion euros (\$1.74 billion), about four times their loss of 368 million euros during the same period a year earlier and more than double the loss anticipated by analysts.

Nokia, which recently lost its ranking of 14 years as the world's biggest mobile phone maker, dramatically changed its strategy a year and a half ago, deciding to phase out its Symbian smartphones in favour of a partnership with Microsoft.

But Moody's said it was disappointed with Nokia's outlook and cautioned that its new Lumia smartphones, which the company is counting on to help it survive stiff competition from RIM's BlackBerry, Apple's iPhone and handsets

running Google's Android platform, were loss-making.

The ratings agency also stressed there was no guarantee Nokia's highly anticipated Windows Phone 8, set to launch later this year, would help it get back in the black.

Nokia meanwhile said it was disappointed with the downgrade, but insisted in a statement that "its impact on the company is limited."

Following Monday's announcement, Nokia saw its share price drop 3.02 percent to 1.38 euros a piece in afternoon trading on a Helsinki stock exchange down 3.04 percent.



PARIS: France's President Francois Hollande (R) holds a scale model of the Hydroptere, a craft which is designed with foils to rise above the surface of the water, as skippers Jean Le Cam (L), Yves Parlier (2ndL), and Alain Thebault (2ndR) react in the gardens of the Elysee Palace in Paris, on July 23, 2012. The skippers will attempt to break the existing world record for the 6000 kms between Los Angeles and Honolulu in the 24 metre trimaran.

AFP PHOTO



BEIJING - Residents stands amidst debris and damaged vehicles, an aftermath of a flood caused by heavy rainfalls which hit their home in Wa Jing Village, at Fangshan district near Beijing, residents expressed fury on Monday after the worst rains to hit the Chinese capital in more than 60 years left at least 37 people dead, with at least another seven still missing. Many said lives could have been saved and some of the worst devastation avoided if a better warning system had been in place, and criticised the city's antiquated water infrastructure.

AFP PHOTO

COMICS

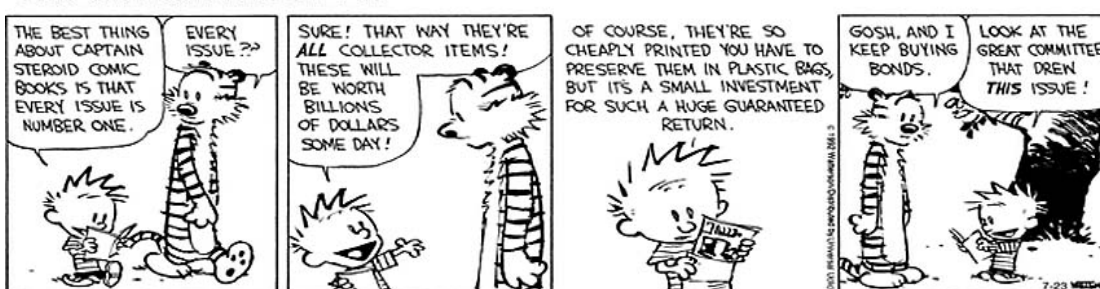
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. Storyline
5. Happy's opposite
8. Has cognac
12. Vegetarian staple
13. Southwestern Indian
14. Hound's clue
15. Hospital talk for "quick"
16. Robber's pursuer
17. Nays
18. Tic-___-toe
20. Schedule abbr.
22. Beam
24. "Heartbreak ___"
27. Mauna ___
28. Use a thimble
30. Wash
32. Night birds

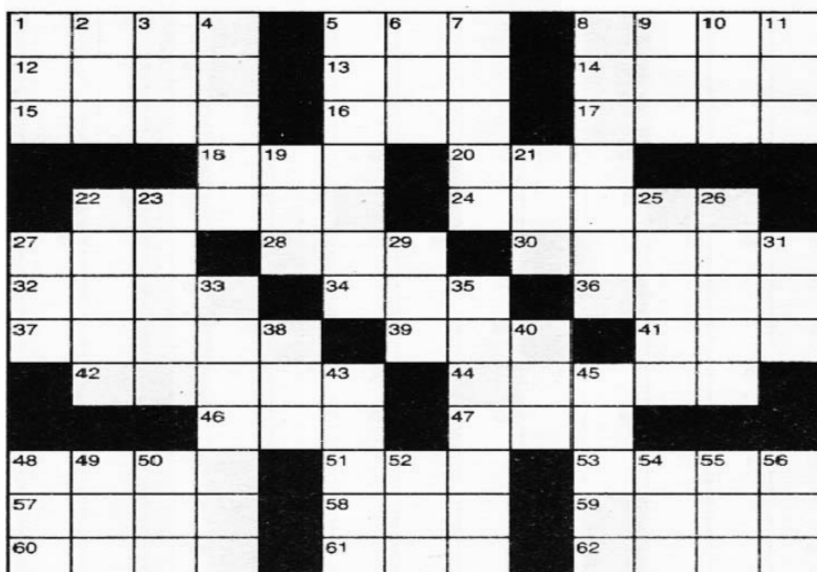
34. Society gal
36. Food fish
37. "No way!"
39. Social reformer Nellie
41. Hee-hawer on the farm
42. Celebrate wildly
44. Insurance provider
46. Freud's concern
47. TX to NY dir.
48. Distant
51. Acorn, in time
53. Apprehends
57. Phi ___ Kappa
58. Prior to (prefix)

59. Runs a tab
60. Fasten securely
61. Clique
62. Hire

DOWN

1. Liquid measures (abbr.)
2. Acre, e.g.
3. "Son ___ gun!" (2 wds.)
4. ___-frutti ice cream
5. Be a winner
6. From ___ Z (2 wds.)
7. What sonar measures
8. Musical

9. Groom's response (2 wds.)
10. "The Raven" poet
11. Certain upperclassmen (abbr.)
19. Response (abbr.)
21. Actor Hoskins
22. Seed scatterer
23. Cut in two equally
25. Patriot Allen
26. Tibet's capital
27. Actor Chaney
29. Spider's home
31. McBain and McMahon
33. More than a few
35. Bed covering
38. Standard (abbr.)
40. Desire
43. Airplane stunts
45. Pavarotti's voice
48. Out of school (abbr.)
49. Accountant's charge
50. ___ cross-roads (2 wds.)
52. Common verb
54. Solemn fear
55. "___ Casey"
56. Concorde's initials



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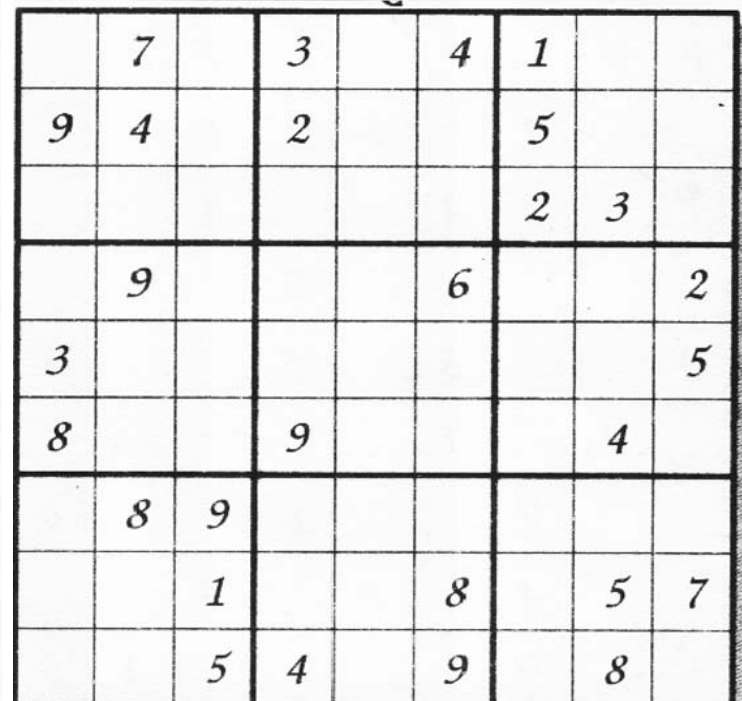
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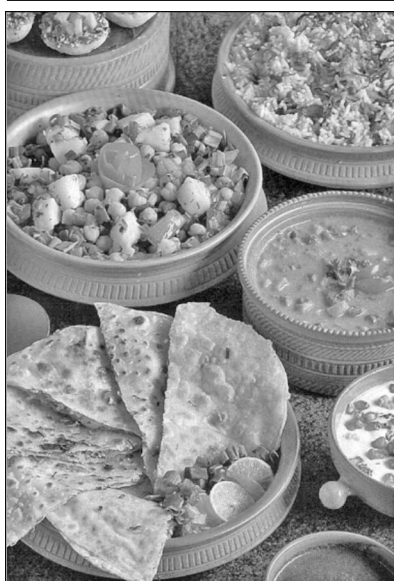
Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	8	9	6	1	7	5	2	4
4	5	6	8	2	9	1	3	7
1	2	7	3	4	5	6	8	9
9	7	4	5	6	2	1	8	3
5	6	8	2	7	1	4	9	3
2	1	3	9	8	4	7	6	5
7	3	2	4	6	8	9	5	1
8	4	5	1	9	7	3	6	2
6	9	1	7	5	3	8	2	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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ECB continues to hold back on bond purchases

FRANKFURT (AFP) - The European Central Bank remains reluctant to restart its program of buying up bonds of eurozone nations, data suggested yesterday, despite speculation it might do so again soon amid market turmoil.

According to data published on the ECB's website, the central bank did not buy any sovereign bonds last week, as it has not done since February.

The ECB first launched its bond-buying blitz under the Securities Market Program (SMP) in 2010 to help debt-racked eurozone countries that were finding it difficult to drum up financing in capital markets.

But the SMP has lain virtually dormant since February following the ECB's moves to pump more than one trillion euros (\$1.22 trillion) into the banking system via three-year funding operations in December and February.

Yields on Spanish government bonds jumped to record highs yesterday as investors turned increasingly sceptical about government efforts to stabilise a stricken banking system and the public finances.

ECB President Mario Draghi will preside the bank's next policy meeting on August 2, but analysts are divided as to whether he will indicate a decision to reboot the program.

SMP was controversial

from the start, with critics saying the ECB was overstepping its mandate in buying up sovereign bonds on the secondary market.

Draghi and his predecessor Jean-Claude Trichet always said the measure was only temporary and aimed at easing strains in the 17-nation euro bloc but two prominent German ECB members quit in protest over the practice.

Between January and August 2011, the purchases dried up, but the ECB resumed the program when renewed strains pushed Italian and Spanish borrowing rates to unsustainable levels.

The ECB has so far accumulated 211.5 billion euros in bonds from Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Italy and Spain as part of the program.

At one point, purchases reached as much as 22 billion euros in a single week.

WTO to examine China rare earths dispute, says source

GENEVA (AFP) - The World Trade Organization (WTO) is to investigate China's export restrictions on rare earths, a source close to the organization said yesterday.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the trade arbiter's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) after a request by the European Union, the United States and Japan.

An earlier call for DSB arbitration was blocked on July 10 by China, which is accused of unfairly choking off exports of rare earths, tungsten and molybdenum to benefit domestic industries. The US claims that China sets export quotas, duties and other restrictions that make the products increasingly expensive.

In response China's WTO delegation said it "regrets that the complaining parties request the DSB to establish a panel on



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esposa Lisette Chung Oduber

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cu e jegada tan spera di nan prins

Ministerio di Turismo, Transporte y Labor

Rich Latin Americans hid '\$2 trillion' in tax havens

SAO PAULO (AFP) - The wealthiest people in 33 Latin American and Caribbean nations stashed more than \$2 trillion of assets in offshore tax havens between 1970 and 2010, an independent tax-transparency group has said.

The British-based Tax Justice Network (TJN) said in a report released Sunday that the exact figure, \$2.058 trillion, compares with a combined foreign debt of \$1.01 trillion for those countries.

The report, written by James Henry, former chief economist at McKinsey & Company, the global management consulting firm, esti-

mated that \$21-\$32 trillion in unrecorded wealth is stashed in such tax havens as Switzerland and the Cayman Islands.

The survey notably looked at the unrecorded capital flows, offshore assets and offshore earnings of wealthy individuals in 33 of the 40 countries that make up the Latin American and Caribbean region, during the 1970-2010 period.

Rich Brazilians were found to have placed \$519.5 billion in offshore tax havens, ranking fourth in the world after their counterparts from China (\$1.2 trillion), Russia and South Korea (each with \$779 billion).

In Latin America, the Brazilians were followed by Mexicans (\$417.5 billion), Venezuelans (\$405 billion), Argentinians (\$399.1 billion) while counterparts from 29 other regional countries stashed a combined \$316.4 billion.

Those offshore assets compared with 2010 foreign debts

of \$324.5 billion for Brazil, \$186.4 billion for Mexico, \$129.6 billion for Argentina, \$55.7 billion for Venezuela and a total of \$317.3 billion for the 29 other countries.

According to Henry, those assets are "protected by a highly paid, industrious bevy of professional enablers in the private banking, legal, accounting and investment industries taking advantage of the increasingly borderless, frictionless global economy".

The report, titled "Inequality: You don't know the half of it: Or why inequality is worse than we thought", found that the top 10 private banks managed more than \$6 trillion in 2010, up from \$2.3 trillion five years earlier.

Henry based his findings on data from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Bank of International Settlements, a body which coordinates financial services regulations.

MONDAY'S Crossword Answer

BYE	ISAAC	SCI
REM	MITCH	OAK
IAM	ADMIRABLE	
CHANGE	DIP	
HES	SEMI	
NOEL	HER	SANG
ADA	OWE	COO
NOSH	WET	SENT
REEL	IMP	
LOB	CIRCUS	
STAMPEDED	ASP	
PEG	ELENA	PSI
ACT	SALTS	ORT

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
07/23/2012				
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.73	1.75	1.77
Britain	GBP	2.70	2.75	2.81
Switzerland	CHF	179.30	180.02	180.82
Netherlands	EUR	213.65	215.60	217.76
Sweden	SEK	24.52	25.24	26.04
Denmark	DKK	28.01	28.73	29.53
Norway	NOK	28.24	28.96	29.76
Japan	JPY	225.56	227.61	229.90
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A nephew (Trent Jackson) reported Jackson family matriarch Katherine Jackson, 82, missing late Saturday after her grandchildren were unable to get in touch with her for a week. It is the latest chapter in a messy dispute between several of Jackson's children and her advisers over her finances and legal affairs. "yes, my grandmother is missing," Paris Jackson, 14, tweeted Sunday morning. "i haven't spoken with her in a week i want her home now." Responding: "I want to reassure everyone (inc all sudden medical experts) that Mother is fine but is resting up in AZ on the orders of a doctor, not us," Jermaine Jackson tweeted. Paris Jackson's responded to her uncle's claim with her own tweet early Sunday. "the same doctor that testified on behalf of dr murray saying my father was a drug addict (a lie) is caring for my grandmother... just saying" she tweeted. The doctor who examined Jackson at her home on July 14 was Dr. Allan Metzger, according to Katherine Jackson attorney Sandra Ribera. Metzger was a defense expert witness for Dr. Conrad Murray last year. "She is safe and with family members," L.A. Sheriff's Deputy Don Walker read from a statement Monday morning, L.A. When I got there, Katherine Jackson and her family were at the dinner table and had just finished a game of Uno," a Pima County sheriff's deputy said, adding that Jackson was on vacation. "She seemed like she was having a good time. She was happy, safe and healthy."

Elton John says more love could end AIDS

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Singer Elton John said Monday the world needs more love in order to end the AIDS epidemic, which has killed some 30 million people around the world since it first emerged in the 1980s.

"We need more than money. We need more than medicine. We need love," John told the International AIDS Conference in Washington, the largest meeting of experts on HIV/AIDS in the world.

"What we need now is more love for the living," he said, recounting his younger years as a troubled drug addict and a gay man struggling for acceptance, and lamenting the discrimination that continues in many parts of the world.

"There are some people who look at the sick and look for reasons to blame them," he said, adding that fear of isolation often prevents people from seeking testing and treatment.



Singer and songwriter Sir Elton John speaks during the 19th International AIDS Conference in Washington, DC

ment.

Shame and stigma are "killing people all round the world right now," he said.

The singer also applauded the United States for its funding of AIDS treatment programs worldwide, but denounced its inability to stop a raging epidemic in the US capital where infection rates among black men are surging.

"If this country wanted to end AIDS at home it could do so in a heartbeat," he said to rousing applause from the audience.

The International AIDS Conference is held every two years and has returned to the United States for the first time since 1990, after the government lifted restrictions on travel by HIV-positive people.

Studio withholds box office data after Batman killings

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Warner Brothers is withholding data on weekend box office takings from "The Dark Knight Rises" out of respect for victims of the Colorado massacre, a studio spokeswoman announced.

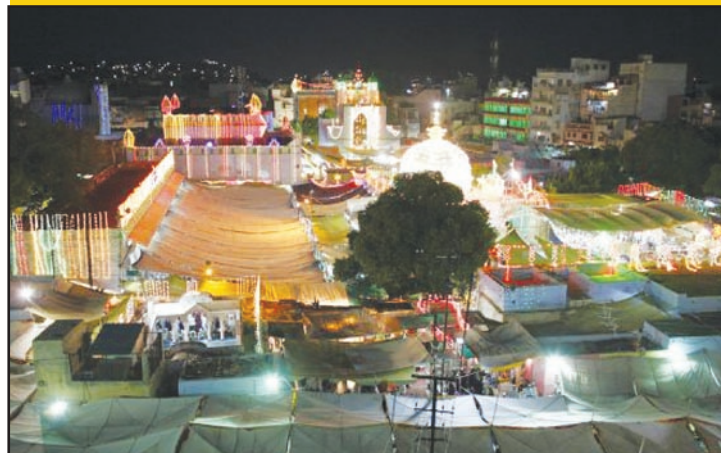
The announcement came as industry daily Variety reported that the Batman movie finale made an estimated \$75 million in the US on Friday, the third biggest opening ever.

Rival studios, including Disney, Sony and Universal, have followed suit in saying they will not report box office takings, Variety reported.

Variety cited rival studios' data for its \$75 million estimate for Friday takings, which include midnight Thursday screenings like the one in Colorado, where 12 people were killed and 58 injured in shooting.

The box office figure, if confirmed, would put the Batman movie third behind last year's "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," which earned \$91.1 million, and this year's blockbuster "The Avengers," with \$80.8 million, Variety said.

Indian stars accused of misusing top Muslim shrine



NEW DELHI (AFP) - The head of one of the most important Muslim shrines in India has complained about Bollywood stars misusing the site to pray for their "sinful" films to be commercially successful.

Zainul Abedin Ali Khan, who leads the organisation in charge of the Ajmer shrine in Rajasthan, said that celebrity pilgrims were appealing for movies that often featured immoral subjects that insulted Islam.

The shrine to sufi saint Muin-ud-din Chishti, who died in Ajmer in the 13th century, is one of south Asia's most important pilgrimage sites, attracting millions of Muslim and non-Muslim devotees from around the world every year.

Khan did not name any stars, but glamorous actresses

Katrina Kaif and Kareena Kapoor, veteran leading man Amitabh Bachchan and heartthrob Shah Rukh Khan are among many Bollywood personalities to have visited in the past.

"Most of the films today are full of obscenity, double meaning words and expressions," Khan explained. "It is hateful and sinful."

"I strongly condemn and object to the visit of film actors, actresses, directors and producers to the dargah (shrine) to seek blessings for such things which are taboo."

Khan also complained that an unnamed male singer-composer visited the shrine wearing a burqa and that a leading actress offered prayers while dressed in a skirt.

"This is to attract attention and it is highly objectionable," he said.

Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates from Boston, Massachusetts, residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too



Gouda Burger 2

chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh

Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner – daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

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Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12



London braced for world's greatest show



LONDON (AFP) - Bradley Wiggins is targeting Olympic gold after pedalling his way into the history books with Britain's first ever victory in the Tour de France. The 32-year-old Londoner surged to a memorable victory in cycling's most prestigious event on Sunday but wasted no time in turning his attention to his challenge at his hometown Olympics. Wiggins admitted that adding to the three gold medals he has already accumulated at the 2004 and 2008 Olympics would not necessarily top his Tour win, which he described as the "greatest day of my sporting life." Meanwhile Wiggins awoke on Monday to find images of his Tour win splashed across the front pages of Britain's press many said Wiggins could now expect to be honoured with a knighthood for his achievement while some reports speculated he may also now enter the frame as the man to light Olympic flame at Friday's opening ceremony.



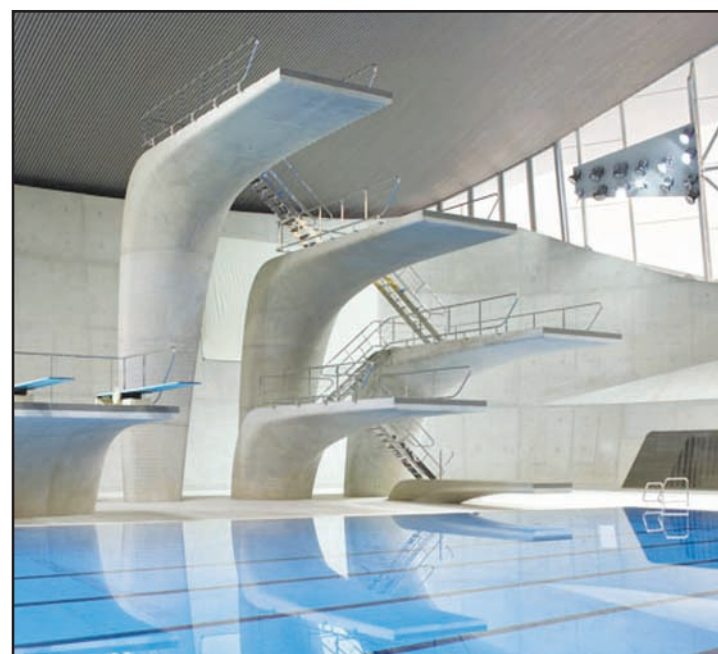
The 1908 London Olympic marathon turned out to be one of the most famous marathons ever. The weather was nearly 80 degrees, so the racers were running in some pretty rough conditions. The conditions likely affected the leader of the race, Italian Dorando Pietri, who was in bad shape when he entered the Stadium well ahead of his closest competitor. However, while he was in the lead, he could barely walk. He staggered and fell numerous times as he grew so close to the finish line. Once or twice he even began to start running the wrong direction, that's how dazed he was! Ultimately, with the other runners starting to come close and with Pietri so tantalizingly close to the end, Olympic officials actually decided to PROP HIM UP across the finish line! Naturally, the United States protested this when their representative, John Hayes, crossed the finishing line next, and their protest was upheld. Pietri was disqualified and Hayes was the Gold Medalist.

LONDON (AFP) - Seven years in the making, costing £9.3 billion (\$14.5 billion) and featuring 10,490 athletes, the London Olympics opens Friday with 302 gold medals to be won and hard-fought reputations at stake.

The Olympic Stadium and Aquatics Centre in London's East End will host Beijing super-heroes Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps, who tore up the history books in 2008.

On the other side of the city, Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams will be the headline acts as Wimbledon welcomes the heavyweight tennis talent.

In between, Horse Guards Parade, within walking distance of Downing Street and the Houses of Parliament, hosts beach volleyball and Wembley Stadium will stage the football final.



part of the aquatics centre

Phelps also faces a national rival in the shape of Ryan Lochte, a triple Olympic

Magnussen.

Dubbed 'The Missile', Magnussen is the 100m freestyle world champion and earlier this year swam that event's fastest ever time without the aid of the now-banned, drag-reducing 'super suits'.

Other athletics stars include Russian polevault queen Yelena Isinbayeva, Kenya's David Rudisha in the 800m and Ethiopia's Kenenisa Bekele, the 5,000m and 10,000m champion in Beijing.

South Africa's Oscar Pistorius, known as 'Blade Runner' because he runs with carbon fibre prosthetic running blades, will make history as the first double amputee athlete to compete at an Olympics.

At the velodrome, Bradley Wiggins, fresh from his historic Tour de France triumph,



the equestrian venue at Greenwich Park

Even Lord's, the home of cricket, gets involved, opening its doors to the world's best archers.

On the track, Bolt, a triple gold-medallist in Beijing in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay, faces a mouthwatering showdown with Jamaican team-mate Yohan Blake in the 100m final on August 5.

Bolt holds the world record of 9.58sec but Blake is the world champion and the in-form sprinter this season, getting the better of his senior partner in the Jamaican trials last month.

In the pool, Phelps, whose eight golds in Beijing took his medal tally to 14, needs five more to surpass the all-time record of 18 set by Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina between 1956 and 1964.

Like Bolt, the 27-year-old

champion, who can put a huge hole in his rival's dreams when the two clash in the 200m and 400m medleys.

Elsewhere in the pool, eyes



an aerial view of the Basketball Arena

will also be on precocious Missy Franklin, just 17 and also racing seven events, and Australian sensation James

will fire up home hopes.

continues on page 15

Penn State punished over pedophile case



NEW YORK (AFP) - Penn State's football team, one of the most successful and lucrative US college sports machines, was crippled Monday with a heavy fine and a four-year playoff ban over a child sex abuse scandal.

The punishment for management's response to evidence of serial sex abuse by a top coach completed the fall from grace for Penn State's team, and shed light on the broader issue of ethical problems in US university sports.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association, the governing body, said it had rejected shutting down the team altogether, but described the penalties as severe and lambasted what it called leadership failures and a warped team culture.

NCAA president Mark Emmert said "an argument can be

made that the egregiousness of the behavior in this case is greater than any other seen in NCAA history."

The team must pay a \$60 million fine -- the equivalent of one year's income, which will go to child abuse charities -- and it will be banned from postseason bowl games for four years. That, along with a cut in scholarships, is likely to drive star players to leave for other colleges, crippling the team.

In addition, the official record from 1998 through 2011 will be altered to remove the many victories that had made recently deceased head coach Joe Paterno the coach with the most wins in the country.

Paterno was never criminally charged, but the leg-

endary figure became emblematic of a failure by university management to respond to indications that his onetime assistant coach, Jerry Sandusky, had been flagrantly abusing children.

An independent report into the scandal found evidence of a broad cover-up that allowed Sandusky to continue abusing impressionable boys that he hosted at the university and on trips as part of charity work.

The tawdry case upended the near mythical status of Paterno and the team known as the Nittany Lions.

The late head coach's family responded angrily to the NCAA sanctions, saying they were part of an "avalanche of vitriol, condemnation and posthumous punishment on Joe Paterno."

The family statement also condemned measures that will effectively reduce the Nittany Lions to a second tier team for several years, with no chance of winning a championship.

"Punishing past, present and future students of the university because of Sandusky's crimes does not serve justice. This is not a fair or thoughtful action; it is a panicked response to the public's understandable revulsion at what Sandusky did," Emmert said.

Formula One: Hamilton move was acceptable, says Horner



HOCKENHEIM (AFP) - Red Bull team chief Christian Horner has admitted that there was nothing wrong with Lewis Hamilton's controversial passing move on Sebastian Vettel during Sunday's German Grand Prix.

McLaren driver Hamilton, who was at the back of the field after suffering a puncture at the start of the race, came out of the pits with fresh tyres and passed Red Bull driver Vettel, who was scrapping with eventual race-winner Fernando Alonso of Ferrari for the lead.

German Vettel later labelled the Englishman 'stupid' and

suggested his actions had cost him a chance at winning the race.

However, while Horner defended Vettel's comments, he accepted that Hamilton was within his right to overtake him.

Horner did admit however, that the situation had been frustrating for the team as it enabled Spaniard Alonso to extend his lead in the race.

He said: "If you look at the rules, I don't think that there is anything to say that a car can't unlap itself."

"It's frustrating that it cost us a second and it's unfortunate that he didn't unlap himself from Fernando as well.

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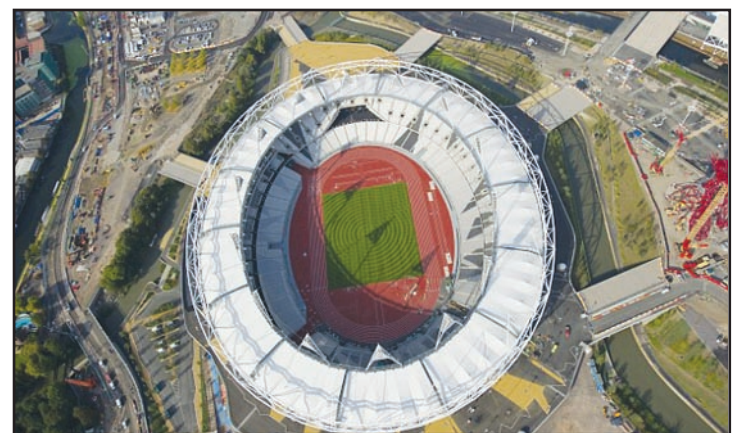
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London braced continued from page 14



the new athletics track and field stadium

Zara Phillips, the grand-daughter of Queen Elizabeth, adds a little royal lustre to the equestrian at Greenwich.

Federer, having won a record-equalling seventh Wimbledon title, returns to the All England Club in south-west London looking to add singles gold to the doubles he won with Swiss compatriot Stanislas Wawrinka four years ago.

His rivals will be Djokovic and Andy Murray but there will be no defending champion Rafael Nadal, who pulled out to rest his ongoing knee problems.

The United States will be comfortable favourites in the men's basketball with a Dream Team boasting LeBron James and Kobe Bryant but not the injured Dwyane Wade or Derick Rose.

The build-up to the Games has been relatively trouble-free, although organisers had to summon 3,500 troops for the showpiece after private security firm G4S admitted they couldn't provide a full contingent of guards.

Amid gripes about security and transport, colourful London mayor Boris Johnson hit out at critics of the Olympics, saying the city was about to stage the greatest show on Earth.

However, one subject the British enjoy discussing -- the weather -- continues to be at the forefront.

After a wet and chilly summer, temperatures are expected to reach the high twenties by the time the Games officially get underway with Friday's opening ceremony.

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Olympics: Rogge holds minute's silence for 1972 Munich victims



LONDON - IOC President Jacques Rogge signs on July 23, 2012 the Olympic Wall of Truce to mark the 40th anniversary of deadly attacks on Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Games during a visit to the Olympic Village in London four days before the start of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Rogge, who had ruled out holding a minute's silence at Friday's opening ceremony, staged the commemoration for the 11 victims killed by Palestinian extremists as he toured the Athletes' Village.

AFP PHOTO

Eurotunnel expects Olympic boost but shares tumble



(AFP) - Eurotunnel said Monday it expected a boost in passenger numbers from the London Olympics but its shares tumbled after it announced a first-half profit that was lower than expected.

The operator of the Channel tunnel rail link between Britain and France announced stable first-half net profits of five million euros (\$6.1 million), but analysts said the result did not meet expectations.

Eurotunnel shares were down 5.67 percent in Paris at around 1200 GMT to 5.92 euros.

"Operating profit was seven percent lower than our expectations, at 129 million euros instead of the expected 139 million. The difference is essentially explained by higher costs than our estimates," said Eric Lemarie, an

analyst at Aurel BGC.

Eurotunnel said it expected passenger numbers to get a boost from the Olympics, starting in London on July 27.

"The full effect of the Olympics in July, the post-Olympics effect ... and the fact that our second half is always better than our first half gives us great confidence," Eurotunnel chief Jacques Gounon told a conference call.

In anticipation of the Games, Eurotunnel has added capacity and boosted train speeds to accommodate more traffic.

The company's first-half revenues were up 14 percent to 473 million euros while earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) were up three percent to 205 million euros.

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